

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

DEC 28 2006

REMARKS

The Office Action of 09/22/2006 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the present remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 9, 14 and 15 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter, which indication is appreciatively acknowledged.

Claims 1-7 and 10-13 were rejected as being anticipated by Easter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

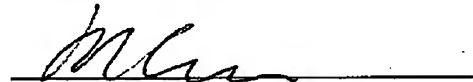
The present invention relates to a system in which a first sub-circuit includes a version number memory for storing a version number, the sub-circuit providing a performance dependent on the version number that is stored in the version number memory. A second sub-circuit includes a write-protected memory and a version number control circuit arranged to send update values for the version number memory from the write-protected memory via the communication connection.

Easter does not teach such an arrangement.

Rather, in Easter, various sub-circuit are either *enabled or disabled* (Easter, col. 7, lines 1-5) by a cryptographic configuration processor. In particular, Easter does not teach or suggest sending update values for a *version number memory* from a write-protected memory via a communication connection for storing a version number in a sub-circuit, the sub-circuit providing a performance dependent on the version number that is stored in the version number memory.

Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-15 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Ure', is written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Ure, Reg. 33,089

Dated: 12/21/2006